

APPROVED: Meeting No. 27-80

ATTEST: *Helen M. Heneghan*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 19-80

May 29, 1980

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Work Session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, May 29, 1980 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor William E. Hanna, Jr.

Councilman Steve Abrams

Councilwoman Phyllis Fordham

Councilman John Freeland

Councilman John Tyner

The Mayor in the Chair.

In attendance: City Clerk Helen M. Heneghan, City Manager Larry Blick,
Budget Director Anna Lee Berman

Re: Work Session - Proposed Operating
Budget

RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME

MUNICIPAL SWIM CENTER

Mr. Harry Dodge of the Recreation and Parks Board addressed the Council and suggested the approval of the addition of \$15,000 for architectural and engineering consultants to do a feasibility and cost analysis of an additional indoor pool. If built, 75% of the funding can be received from the State in Open Space Funds. Councilman Tyner suggested that the present outdoor pool be covered and converted for full year use instead of building another pool. Councilman Freeland said he would have no problems with the addition if the consultants looked at alternatives to conform to the pool remaining self-sustaining. Councilwoman Fordham suggested that it might be better if a new pool were to be built at a new location which would benefit the people on the south side of Rockville. A discussion followed concerning the cost of improvements and the self-sustaining principle. The Council ultimately agreed to place the \$15,000 expenditure on the wish list.

MUNICIPAL GOLF

The Council discussed the possibility of rate increases and how it would affect play. It was the consensus that no increase be made at this time. Mayor Hanna asked that the Staff attempt to encourage a young persons program of free lessons and reduced rates since they would be building a clientele for the future. Mr. Gerardi said as soon as the driving range is complete, which should be by the end of the summer, this can be accomplished. All that is needed is space for group lessons.

ADULT ATHLETICS

In answer to Councilman Tyner's question, Mary Jo Leadbeater explained that a better quality of officials is now servicing the games. Councilwoman Fordham noted that she would hate to see the fees increased on these programs and make them less accessible to the adults. Mayor Hanna asked that the fees simply be used as a basic level of commitment but not look to the programs being fee supported. The Council agreed to place \$5,000 on the wish list in order to hold fees at the 1980 level.

YOUTH ATHLETICS

Council discussed the fee increase and agreed that a \$1.00 increase across the board would not present any hardship. At the same time the Recreation and Parks Board was asked to look into a new policy of awarding medals to winners in the various leagues.

CULTURAL ARTS

Councilwoman Fordham reported she had spoken with June Allen of the Street 70 Program. Mrs. Allen suggested that since all of the physical improvements are being made to the auditorium itself, it would be a good time to inaugurate a more professional use of the auditorium. Groups might be enticed into appearing here after Baltimore and various road shows. Mrs. Allen suggested this could be done with a promotional program to emphasize true and pro theatre. The second thing needed for the promotion would be a staff person to work on it. Councilman Freeland agreed with the concept if it could be made self-supporting. Councilman Tyner pointed out the need for improving the backstage before road show theatre could be attracted. Mayor Hanna told the Council of a six state consortium that has been formed to promote a broader and regional approach to the arts. He is awaiting a recommendation from the Cultural Arts Commission as to the participation level Rockville might consider. He asked the staff if they had met with

the people from the Kennedy Center to discuss Rockville being used as a satellite for Kennedy performances. Mr. Olson said that this process has begun but there has been difficulty in ensuring a firm commitment. Mayor Hanna also mentioned a group from New York City that is attempting to promote musical awareness. It underwrites the cost of bringing in composers during the presentation of various works.

The Council agreed to put \$20,000 on the wish list to look into Mrs. Allen's idea of more professional theatre.

Councilwoman Fordham brought forward the Shake Hands with Shakespeare Program that would teach young people about Shakespeare and familiarize them with the language. Once the young people are rehearsed, they will be able to enter the Folger Festival on Shakespeare. She handed out copies of the proposal to the Council. It showed how this could be accomplished with the addition of \$2,200 to the budget for a three-phase program.

Mayor Hanna suggested since it is such a worthwhile program that the first year each school in the City be contacted and the principal be asked to nominate three to five children who would enter the program at no cost. He suggested that it apply only to Rockville youngsters. A discussion followed on children who live in the City or who go to school in the City and the necessity of differentiating between the two. Councilman Freeland suggested that the Mayor and Council not attempt at this time to differentiate but agree with the policy of supporting the program and let the staff people work out the details in the selection process. The Council agreed to put \$2,200 on the wish list for this program.

RECREATION CLASS PROGRAMS

The Mayor and Council made no changes in this program.

YOUTH SUMMER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Mayor Hanna discussed with the staff an improvement in the signing to discourage littering and also advising people of municipal infractions as a penalty.

COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAMS

Councilman Tyner suggested that the "Extended Day" program be extended to Twinbrook. The Council agreed and placed \$6,950 on the wish list for this program. Mayor Hanna also suggested that the workreation program be expanded since it is such an advantage that young people learn good work habits. The Council rounded this program out to \$1,000 which would be an increase of \$434.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Council suggested that the various neighborhoods and civic associations be contacted and encouraged to enter the Memorial Day Parade. The staff might consider having a clothes designer visit the associations to give ideas to the people. The Mayor and Council adopted a policy of no pure commercialism on any float. They also asked that the awards money be increased for bands, floats, and marching groups. One Thousand Dollars was suggested to be added to the program, however, the Council would decide at a later time whether this will be done by matching the funds contributed by the business community. Mayor Hanna asked the staff to bring forward a short comparison memo on what is given at other parades in the area.

The Council agreed to delete the burning of the green ceremony which saves a total of \$2,998.

CIVIC CENTER COMPLEX

Councilman Freeland asked the income from the conferences. Mr. Peters said \$6,300.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE (EXCLUDING CIVIC CENTER)

The Mayor and Council made no changes.

PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND PLAYFIELDS MAINTENANCE

The Mayor asked that the staff consider providing a tap on the water line to service the garden plots. The staff will return with a cost estimate. Mayor Hanna suggested that \$1.00 might be added to the cost of the garden plot and that would cover the water cost.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Councilman Tyner suggested that in addition to designing new facilities, the staff look at existing facilities and survey their use and needs. The City Manager suggested that renovation funds might be considered in the Capital Improvements Program.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 p.m. to convene again in work session on Saturday, May 31, 1980 at 9:30 a.m. or at the call of the Mayor.